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PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #0354 0480236  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 170236Z FEB 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0823  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2467  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4811  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0293  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3018  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6254  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7766  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2713  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3788  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3751  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000354

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
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SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NORTH KOREA

11. LEAD STORIES: Front-page items on Tuesday morning included Secretary of State Clinton's arrival in Tokyo on Monday evening.

12. "Prior Notice of Missile Launch a Message to U.S.?"  
The moderate Yomiuri's dispatch from Seoul argued (2/17): "North Korea's 'prior notice' of its launch of a ballistic missile is aimed at threatening the Obama administration and strengthening Pyongyang's bargaining power against the U.S. The Obama administration's diplomacy toward North Korea will be tested soon, as the missile could be test-fired as early as later this month... Secretary of State Clinton said during her remarks in New York ahead of her tour of Asia that the U.S. is ready to normalize its relations with North Korea in return for Pyongyang's abandonment of its nuclear programs. North Korea's prior notice is a response to this proposal. The U.S. will likely react strongly if a missile is actually launched. However, North Korea appears to be calculating that the U.S. will have to eventually hold negotiations with Pyongyang."

ZUMWALT